

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY GROUP  
JULY 19, 2005**

**MINUTES**

Members Present

Joseph Donaldson, Mayor  
Judy Boyer  
David Camacho  
Tara Green  
Lee Treece  
Julie Pastrick

Members Absent

Grover Decker  
Kapri Saunders  
Stephanie Ludwig  
Stephanie McKinney - excused  
Joanne Keene  
Nat White-excused  
Julie Pastrick  
Karl Baumgartner  
Coral Evans-Randall  
Dana Russell – excused  
Mitch Strohman - excused  
Renee Fausett - excused

Guests Present

Melissa Bowen, YMCA

Staff Present

Dave Wilcox, City Manager  
Jim Wine, Deputy City Manager  
Mindy Meyers, City of Flagstaff Parks & Recreation  
Elizabeth Neumayer, City of Flagstaff Parks & Recreation  
Laura Parker

Mayor Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:52 a.m.

A motion was made by David Camacho to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2005 meeting. Motion seconded by Lee Treece. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Donaldson welcomed group and introduced the information to be presented at the meeting. He then turned the time over to Jim Wine for background information.

Aquatic Center & Multi-Generational Centers: Jim Wine, Deputy City Manager gave a background on the project thus far regarding the City of Flagstaff and YMCA. Community workshops to have been held on June 16 and July 14 for input/dialog from the community and others. The dialog on this project began about 4-5 years ago, regarding the use of land for the YMCA. Currently are involved in a discussion on an Aquatic Center. Staff has been meeting for approximately a year to plan community discussions that will be held at various city locations. Jim introduced Elizabeth Neumayer, Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Flagstaff and Mindy Meyer, Recreation Superintendent for the City of Flagstaff.

Elizabeth introduced herself to those present and stated that she has been with the city for approximately seven months as Parks and Recreation Director. She stated she has been meeting with the YMCA since she began her employment with the city. Elizabeth discussed the information contained in the packets “Ballard\*King and Associates”, Flagstaff Aquatic and Multi-Generational Centers—Community Workshop #1 – Summary (copy attached). Elizabeth passed out the information sheet from Community Workshop #2 (copy attached), which was held on July 14 at Sinagua High School. Approximately 70 individuals were in attendance at the workshop with many representing the interests of competitive swimming. Elizabeth gave some background information on Ballard\*King and Associates. She stated that Ballard\*King has been meeting with the City and YMCA to narrow down what type of partnership might be generated and that would mesh with the needs of the citizens. Ballard\*King is also meeting with other potential partners, with the YMCA remaining in the forefront. Discussion was held on the information presented by Elizabeth, and questions answered.

Melissa Bowen, YMCA presented the background and history of the YMCA project. The original site was planned for Turquoise and Ponderosa Parkway, property was donated to the YMCA, have been working for two years to raise enough revenue to begin building. The tentative plans include a Health & Fitness Center, Child Development Center, Child Care, Aerobics, Community Area and Pool. Project is currently on hold due to continuing conversations with the City and fund raising efforts. YMCA staff has been directed to continue to meet with city staff as long as is viable—still need to raise about 1 million dollars.

Mayor stated that there is a lot of dialog in the community—he feels we need to work with the YMCA on a partnership and not leave them out. He believes the YMCA is a good organization; and with costs escalating, it would be good to work together if possible.

Discussion was held on the information presented and questions answered by Elizabeth and Melissa.

A question was raised as to whether or not there would be only one facility—consensus from the first workshop leans toward having one facility would make more sense, than maintaining/staffing an additional facility. Melissa stated that the YMCA Board is still deciding whether or not they will partner due to a possible change of location, i.e., 4<sup>th</sup> Street, still looking at two sites.

A statement was made that Flagstaff historically has always had a shortage of pools—is it possible that we could use two pools, a lot of potential users in the city. The dollar amount voted on by the citizens was 8.6 million—do not get to use all of the revenue on the pool, other costs will be involved, i.e., construction, administration etc., 6 million dollars might be what we end up with after costs. May not be able to build all aquatic entities that we would like to have. Dave stated that the city may need more than one pool, but could still have one facility—needs to be expendable as funds come in, need to consider operating costs—two facilities will cost more to run.

Jim Wine stated he has been involved in all of the discussions, Melissa and Jim share information after meetings.

YMCA Board is happy with the Turquoise location, if a location change is made it would be important to meet with the Board. Have an agreement with FMC to provide child development care.

Discussion was held on competitive pools and the different needs—pools can be divided to have recreational/competitive areas, pool temperatures differ, size requirements, etc. NAU presently has a competitive pool with a “leisure” area.

David Camacho stated that he believes the community would like a partnership—need to figure out a comprehensive service plan, may need to look further than the City and the YMCA—may also need to include the County and NAU. Elizabeth stated that in discussions it was agreed that there is a need to be compatible and not competitive, do not want to duplicate services, but need to be able to maintain costs for O & M, staff, etc. Health & fitness would be a way to bring in revenue, the YMCA is membership based, however, they provide scholarships for youth that lack funds. Many City/YMCA partnerships are being done across the country; working together can be a good thing and good for the community. Dave Wilcox stated that the YMCA in Ohio is a wonderful facility—great model, need to work towards that type of model and be sure and locate where there is room for expansion. Discussion was held on location options.

Lee Treece stated that as the citizens have voted on the bond, does the City have a need to get moving on construction. Dave Wilcox stated that a final decision should be forthcoming in December of 2005.

Closing information was presented from members and speakers. The City will continue to work with the YMCA whether or not the partnership comes to be. Need to work together down the road to provide services to the community, while maintaining relationships with other entities—athletic clubs, schools, etc. Purpose and goal is to compliment and not compete.

Information was provided on the city re-furbishing the pools for the school district. Need to educate the public on the things that the city does in their behalf and the services it provides to the community. Vandalism at the pools is a huge problem requiring constant maintenance and repairs. Contract with the school district for maintenance of the pools is going to expire; Elizabeth has taken information to the City Council to extend the contract with the school district for 180 days to continue the discussion.

Website for information [www.flagstaffamc.com](http://www.flagstaffamc.com) - to get info and use for public input.

Lee Treece asked if the YMCA and City staff could return after October and give an update.

#### Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Ideas for upcoming discussion topics include: Land Use-Regional Plan, Villagio Montano, NAU/City Convention Center, Mall Expansion, Airport Expansion.

Topic for August:

- Topic will focus on the Airport Expansion project. City staff involved in the Airport Expansion project will be invited to attend the meeting for a brief presentation.

Meeting adjourned. 8:20 a.m.